

## **In the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for facilitating early brain development, ~~the~~said method comprising:

analyzing at least one activity item to determine how said at least one activity item stimulates a predetermined stage of brain development to create a brain link, wherein said predetermined stage of brain development includes at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination;

determining how said predetermined stage of brain development promotes early development of future school skills in a child to create a school link;

creating an activity card related to said activity item, said activity card having a first area that identifies said brain link and a second area that identifies said school link;

~~obtaining a system for facilitating early brain development, wherein said system targets a predetermined stage of development by including items~~including said at least one activity item in a housing specifically related to said predetermined stage, such that said housing includes at least one different item related to each area of brain development, wherein said areas of brain development include security, touch, eyes, play and sound;activity item related to each of said predetermined stage of brain development;

~~selecting an activity card, wherein said activity card describes at least one selected activity associated with at least one of said items that stimulates a predetermined aspect of brain development and promotes early brain development and wherein said activity card further describes at least one importance of said selected activity to brain building of future school skills;~~

providing said activity card to a caregiver, wherein said activity card comprises caregiver directions for facilitating an interactive play session with said child to achieve said school link and said brain link; and

~~engaging a~~providing said at least one activity item to said caregiver to facilitate stimulating said predetermined stage of brain development, said brain link and said school link by engaging said child's attention to facilitate a~~said~~ interactive play session with a~~said~~

caregiver; modeling said selected activity for said child using said item from said housing, and following said directions on said activity card to instruct said child how to perform said selected activity; and prompting said child to perform said selected activity.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~obtaining a system further comprises obtaining a second item whose use by a caregiver during an interactive play session with a child is designed to foster a~~ said predetermined concept that promotes early brain development, said predetermined concept comprising comprises at least one of attention, bonding, and communication.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~selecting an said step of providing said activity card to said caregiver further comprises selecting an activity card which includes at least one of a list of alternate activities and a list of activity variations, wherein each of said alternate activities and said activity variations is selected to foster at least one of said predetermined aspect of brain development and a predetermined concept that promotes early brain development~~ instructing said caregiver to engage a child's attention using at least one of a visual stimulus, an auditory stimulus, a kinesthetic stimulus, and an emotional stimulus.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~said predetermined aspect of brain development comprises at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination.~~ 1, wherein said step of providing said activity card to said caregiver further comprises instructing said caregiver to engage a child's attention using a visual stimulus.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, ~~5, wherein said predetermined concept~~ visual stimulus comprises at least one of ~~attention, bonding, and communication~~ varied facial expressions and use of an object.

7-9 (cancelled)

10. (currently Amended) The method of claim ~~7~~ 1, wherein ~~engaging a child's attention further comprises encouraging said child through~~ said step of providing said activity card to said caregiver further comprises instructing said caregiver to engage said child's attention using an auditory stimulus, said auditory stimulus comprising varied voice intonations wherein said varied voice intonations comprise at least one of volume, pitch, intensity, and inflection. ~~comprises use of a sound-generating object.~~

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~prompting said child to perform said selected~~ said step of creating an activity card related to said activity item comprises providing instructions to ~~said child~~ promote said predetermined stage of brain development in a predetermined manner.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~12,9~~, wherein said predetermined manner comprises at least one of speaking slowly, speaking quietly, speaking simply, speaking excitedly, and giving minimal verbal cues.

Claims 14-15 (previously canceled).

16. (currently amended) A method for facilitating early brain development, ~~the~~ said method comprising:

determining an area of child development that is desired to be improved, wherein said area of child development includes at least one brain link and school link;

wherein said brain link is established by analyzing at least one activity item to determine how said at least one activity item stimulates a predetermined stage of brain development, wherein said predetermined stage of brain development includes at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination;

wherein said school link is established by determining how a predetermined stage of brain development promotes early development of future school skills in a child;

~~obtaining stage-specific~~ selecting an activity cards from a housing, wherein said activity cards comprises a first area that identifies said brain link and a second area that identifies said school link, and wherein said activity card further comprises (i) caregiver directions for facilitating an interactive play session with said child, (ii) at least one selected activity associated with said at least one ~~said~~ activity items that stimulates said predetermined ~~aspect~~ stage of brain development and promotes early brain development, (iii) a description of at least one importance of said selected activity to the development of the brain, (iv) a description of at least one importance of said selected activity to ~~brain building~~ said early development of future school skills, (v) background information about the type of selected activity, (vi) ~~suggestions about what to say to the child, and~~ (vii) similar activities that can also be accomplished to work on the same skills; age for which said selected activity is targeted, (vii)

suggestions about what to say to said child; and (viii) extensions and variations of said selected activity, and wherein said housing includes activity items specifically related to said predetermined stage, and activity cards within said housing;

~~obtaining at least one item from said housing, wherein said item is specifically related to said predetermined stage and said housing includes at least one item related to each area of brain development, wherein said areas of brain development include security, touch, eyes, play and sound, and following said directions on said activity card wherein said item use by a caregiver during engaging said child's attention using said at least one activity item and said activity card to facilitate said interactive play session with said child is designed to stimulate a predetermined aspect of brain development, said predetermined aspect of brain development caregiver.~~

Claims 17-20 (previously canceled).

21-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A method for facilitating early brain development, said method comprising:

analyzing at least one activity item to determine how said at least one activity item stimulates a predetermined stage of brain development to create a brain link, wherein said predetermined stage of brain development includes at least one of security and emotional attachment, touch and sensory integration, vision and visual discrimination, play and playfulness, and sound and auditory discrimination;

determining how said predetermined stage of brain development promotes early development of future school skills in a child to create a school link;

creating an electronic system comprising said activity item, said electronic system having a first area that identifies said brain link and a second area that identifies said school link;

~~obtaining a electronic system for facilitating early brain development, wherein said system targets a predetermined stage of development by including items including said at least one activity item in each of a plurality of databases, wherein each said database is specifically related to said predetermined stage, such that said database includes a picture of at least one different suggested activity item related to each area of brain development, wherein said areas of brain development include security, touch, eyes, play and sound, of said predetermined stages of brain development;~~

~~selecting an electronic activity card, wherein said activity card describes at least one selected activity associated with at least one of said items that stimulates a predetermined aspect of brain development and promotes early brain development and wherein said electronic activity card further describes at least one importance of said selected activity to brain building of future school skills;~~

providing said electronic system to a caregiver, wherein said electronic system comprises caregiver directions for facilitating an interactive play session with said child to achieve said school link and said brain link; and

~~engaging a~~providing said at least one activity item to said caregiver to facilitate stimulating said predetermined stage of brain development, said brain link and said school link by engaging said child's attention to facilitate an interactive play session with a caregiver;~~said interactive play session with said caregiver, modeling said selected activity for said child using said suggested item from said housing, and following said directions on said electronic activity card to instruct said child how to perform said selected activity;~~ and prompting said child to perform said selected activity.

24. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of providing said activity card further comprises providing at least one of an alternate activity item and a list of activity variations, wherein each of said alternate activity items and said activity variations promotes at least one of said predetermined stage of brain development and a predetermined concept that promotes early brain development.

25. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of providing said activity card to said caregiver further comprises instructing said caregiver to engage a child's attention using an auditory stimulus, said auditory stimulus comprising use of a sound-generating object.

26. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing instructions for selecting said activity card.

27. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein said step of providing instructions for selecting said activity card includes explaining at least one of: the appropriate stage targeted by

said activity card, the age for which said activity card is suggested, the importance of said selected activity card to said predetermined stage of brain development, background information about said activity items included on said activity card, the importance of said selected activity card to said early development of future school skills, materials needed for said selected activity card, directions on how to specifically perform said activity items, suggestions about what to say to said child, general remarks, indications of where and when for said child to pay attention, and extensions and variations of activity items.

28. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said future school skills include at least one of: social skills, spatial-temporal skills, emotional attachment, self-esteem, conscience, identity, language development, organization, mathematics, reading recognition, reading comprehension, spelling, habituation, orientation, eye/hand coordination, phonemic awareness, phonics, conventions of print, motor skills, sensory integration, attending skills, dexterity, writing skills, cognitive skills, perceptual skills, connecting words with actions and objects, self-regulation, bonding skills, visual awareness, spatial reasoning, communication skills, receptive and expressive vocabulary skills, comparing and contrast skills, and attention skills.